

# **Kansas Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant**

## **Purpose**

On December 21, 2004, the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 authorized the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide state assistance for specialty crops. Under Section 101 of the statute, the Secretary of Agriculture is directed to “make grants to States for each of the fiscal years 2005 through 2009 to be used by State departments of Agriculture solely to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.”

Specialty crop block grant funds can be requested to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture).

Examples of “enhancing the competitiveness” of specialty crops includes, but is not limited to: research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, trade enhancement, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, “buy local” programs, increased consumption, increased innovation, improved efficiency and reduced costs of distribution systems, environmental concerns and conservation, product development, and developing cooperatives.

## **Eligibility**

Commissions, public entities, associations, and/or nonprofit organizations that represent Kansas specialty agricultural and food producers are eligible to apply. Individual producers are not eligible to apply. Applicants must be a legal entity and have the legal capacity to contract. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide a cash match for their projects.**

## **Types of Grants and Eligible Activities Grant Funds Available**

Kansas fiscal year 2007 (July 1, 2006 -- June 30, 2007) total available grant funds available for Specialty Crop Block Grant Programs = \$102,000

Kansas fiscal year 2008 (July 1, 2007 -- June 30, 2008) total available grant funds available for Specialty Crop Block Grant Programs = \$102,000

Kansas fiscal year 2009 (July 1 2008 -- June 30, 2009) total available grant funds available for available for Specialty Crop Block Grant Programs Program = \$104,504.80. The passage of the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 appropriated an additional \$106,240 for specialty crops grants during Kansas’ fiscal year 2009.

Division of funds will be based on quality of proposals as recommended during the grant selection process.

## **Timeline**

Specialty Crop Block Grants – Farm Bill, due to Kansas Department of Agriculture by August 15, 2008, and awards will be announced in October.

Specialty Crop Block Grants are due to the Kansas Department of Agriculture by December 5, 2008, and awards will be announced in February.

### **Project Selection Process**

Applications will be reviewed by KDA and KDOC staff and by an advisory committee established by KDA for reviewing grant proposals. Using the recommendations of both parties, applications will be submitted to Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky, who will make the final awards. **These applications do not need to be professionally written; the content of the proposal is more important than the style in which it is written.**

### **Criteria for Selection**

- Project has clear identifiable goals and demonstrates tangible benefits for the industry segment and for Kansas's overall food and agriculture economy.
- Project increases the sales of Kansas grown or manufactured food and agriculture products, Including
  - Increasing the volume of products sold
  - Increasing the price of products sold
  - Increasing the market share of products sold

*Please note that the size of the industry will be taken into consideration. For example, a \$10,000 increase in sales could have a more significant impact in a smaller industry than a larger one.*
- Project addresses a challenge or opportunity, fits into the overall marketing plan of the industry sector, and adds to its overall marketing strategy.
- Project has clear criteria by which to evaluate the success of the project. Goals and expected outcomes are verifiable, measurable and realistic for the scope of the project.
- Project has a high probability of achieving its goals.
- Project has strong industry support.
- Project will benefit many companies in the industry sector.

### **Contract Requirements**

Contracts will specify milestones, outcomes, deliverables and a payment schedule for these deliverables. Awardees must submit an intermediate report halfway through project work and a final report following project completion. Both reports are due before final payment. The applicant must be able to document expenditures of grant funds.

### **Application Process**

Please see attached instructions. Applications must be submitted in hard copy postmarked no later than August 15, 2008 for the Specialty Crop Block Grant – Farm Bill, and no later than December 5, 2008 for the Specialty Crop Block Grants for fiscal year 2009. An e-mail version of the application, preferably in Microsoft Word format, as well as a hard copy is required. Applications can also be sent by fax on the application due date. Mail completed applications to:

Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky  
109 SW 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Topeka, KS 66612-1280

**Eligible Specialty Crops**

Commonly recognized fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture) are not listed, but are eligible specialty crops.

Algae

Chickpeas

Christmas trees

Cocoa

Coffee

Cut flowers

Dry edible beans

Dry peas

Foliage

Fruit grapes for wine

Garlic

Ginger root

Ginseng

Herbs

Honey

Hops

Kava

Lavender

Lentils

Maple syrup

Mushrooms

Peppermint

Potatoes

Seaweed

Spearmint

Sweet Corn

Vanilla

Vegetable seeds

Ineligible Commodities

Cotton and cottonseed

Feed crops such as barley, corn, hay, oats, sorghum grain, millet, alfalfa

Flaxseed

Food grains such as rice, rye, wheat

Livestock and dairy products, including eggs

Marine or fresh water aquaculture

Oil crops such as peanut, soybean, sunflower, safflower, rapeseed, canola, mustard seed, borage,

evening primrose, etc.

Peanuts

Range grasses

Sod

Sugar beets

Sugarcane

Tobacco

Turf

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APPLICATION COVER SHEET</b> <b>KDA Specialty Crop Block Grant</b></p>
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<p>Name of Organization:</p>
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<p>Address:</p>
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<p>City:</p>
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<p>State:</p>
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<p>Zip Code:</p>
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<p>Federal Tax ID#</p>
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<p>Contact Name:</p>
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<p>Title:</p>
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<p>Phone:</p>
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<p>Fax:</p>
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<p>E-mail:</p>
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<p>Industry Sector and Specific Commodity/Food for Promotion (e.g. Tree Fruit: Apricots)</p>
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<p>Brief Project Description:</p>
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<p>Project Title:</p>
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<p>Total Project Cost:</p>
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<p>Grant Request:</p>
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<p>Cash Match:</p>
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<p>In-Kind Match:</p>
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<p>Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information in this application is true and correct and that I am legally authorized to sign and submit this application on behalf of this organization, which is legally eligible to enter into a grant contract.</p>
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<p>Printed Name of Authorized Signatory Signature</p>
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<p>Title Date</p>
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